



PRESS RELEASE

August 1, 2012

LEWES BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

On Wednesday, August 1, 2012, Lewes Board of Public Works ("BPW") General Manager Darrin Gordon announced that the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) awarded the **Clean Water Partnership Award** to the Lewes Board of Public Works for five consecutive years of meeting 100% of the compliance effluent discharge requirements.

The Howard Seymour Water Reclamation Plant, which is operated by Severn Trent Environmental Services, Inc., under Lewes BPW management, operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit as authorized and issued by the State of Delaware DNREC. As required by their NPDES Permit, the BPW sends regular monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) to DNREC to report its performance against evaluation criteria for this "point source" NPDES permit. The award presented today was developed by the State of Delaware Wastewater Operator's Board of Certification to recognize facilities operating under NPDES permits that have achieved five (5) consecutive years with "zero" violations of their DMR. In the five years since April 12, 2007 the Lewes BPW has not had a violation of their NPDES permit DMR or effluent limitations.

David Small, Deputy Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, made the award presentation to the Lewes BPW and Severn Trent at today's ceremony. In his remarks he said in part: "Operating a complex, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant for five years without a single exceedence of our rigorous standards is an incredible achievement. The Lewes BPW and the staff of Severn Trent Environmental Services should be extremely proud of their accomplishment and contributions to protecting our precious coastal waters."

Glenn F. Davis, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Program Manager for the Compliance & Enforcement Branch of the Surface Water Discharges Section, noted that this award is very special and in light of the complexity of the systems being managed. "This award is especially significant when it is understood that every month there are 160 opportunities for the treatment plant to have a violation – that is just under 2,000 per year. During the five years covered by this award, that equates to approximately 9,600 opportunities and the Lewes BPW had "zero violations". This is quite an achievement!"

BPW Board President, Wendell Alfred attributed this award to the "great teamwork between the BPW staff and the Severn Trent Environmental Services, Inc. team. Under the leadership of the BPW General Manager, Darrin Gordon, and the Severn Trent facility manager, Lori Brown, we have a very capable team with their attention focused on doing a quality job. The BPW Board is very proud of this achievement."

Darrin Gordon
General Manager, Lewes Board of Public Works